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Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY WARSAW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 089738

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, CSCE, SHUM, SCUL, PL, US

SUBJECT: FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT: DIVIDED FAMILIES/VISA

REF: A) WARSAW 2323, B) WARSAW 2407

1. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUERS CALLED IN DCM PAWLISZEWSKI ON APRIL 5 TO DISCUSS FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT ISSUES. LUERS EXPLAINED THAT HE WANTED TO TALK TO PAWLISZEWSKI ABOUT THIS TOPIC NOW SO IT WOULD NOT HAVE TO BE THE FIRST ISSUE DISCUSSED WITH AMBASSADOR SPASOWSKI WHEN THE LATTER MAKES HIS INITIAL COURTESY CALL. LUERS SAID WE ARE "TERRIBLY DISSATISFIED" WITH WHAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO WARSAW, ESPECIALLY SINCE WE HAD REASON TO EXPECT PROGRESS IN FAMILY REUNIFICATION. MOREOVER, THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF DENIALS OF VISASTO PEOPLE WHO WANT TO VISIT RELATIVES IN POLANLS OF VISAS TO ARE THE APPLICANTS DENIED PERMISSION TO VISIT BUT THEY ARE NOT EVEN GIVEN ANY EXPLANATION FOR THE DENIALS. ONE
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ESPECIALLY DISTURBING ASPECT OF THIS IS THAT THEY OFTEN INVOLVE PEOPLE OF JEWISH EXTRACTION. WE HAVE BECOME AWARE OF THIS DEVELOPMENT SINCE THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT, AND WE WANT TO KNOW WHY PEOPLE ARE BEING TREATED THIS WAY, LUERS CONTINUED. HE THEN HANDED PAWLISZEWSKI A PACKET OF 7 CASES,

ASKING HIM TO REVIEW THEM AND EXPLAIN TO US THE POLISH

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ACTION.

2. TURNING TO THE FAMILY REUNIFICATION ISSUE, WHICH HE NOTED IS BEING HANDLED MAINLY THROUGH OUR EMBASSY IN WARSAW, LUERS SAID "WE ARE NOT SATISFIED" THAT THE GOP HAS MOVED TO CLEAR UP THE DIVIDED FAMILY CASES AS WE HAD THOUGHT IT WAS GOING TO DO. LUERS SAID WE HAD RECEIVED A NON-PAPER FROM THE MFA A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO THAT GIVES VERY LITTLE HOPE ON THIS SCORE (REF A), AND HE ASKED PAWLISZEWSKI IF PAWLISZEWSKI COULD GIVE US ANY HOPE. WHEN PAWLISZEWSKI ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE DID NOT HAVE THE TEXT OF THIS NON-PAPER FROM HIS GOVERNMENT, LUERS PROMISED TO FURNISH IT.

3. CONTINUING, LUERS EXPRESSED OUR CONCERN ABOUT WHAT THE POLISH ATTITUDE PORTENDS FOR THE FUTURE. HE POINTED OUT THAT WE HAVE IMPORTANT THINGS TO ACCOMPLISH IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS, BUT THIS ISSUE "CONTINUES TO GNAW" AT THE RELATIONSHIP. LUERS REITERATED THAT THE NEW TREND OF VISA DENIALS INVOLVING A NUMBER OF JEWS IS DISTURBING, ESPECIALLY AT A TIME WHEN THE GOP--AND AMBASSADOR SPASOWSKI HIMSELF--HAS BEEN SHOWING AN INTEREST IN BETTERING POLISH RELATIONS WITH THE JEWISH COMMUNITY. LUERS CONCLUDED THAT WE SIMPLY DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THERE ARE THESE VISA DENIALS NOW.

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4. ASKED IF THERE WERE ANYTHING TO ADD, THE EE DESK OFFICER AND NOTETAKER MADE THE POINT THAT ONE BASIS FOR CONCERN ABOUT ALL THIS IS THE FACT THAT FAILURE TO RESOLVE THESE PROBLEMS COULD DAMAGE POLAND'S GOOD IMAGE AMONG AMERICANS AND THEREBY COMPLICATE OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS IN OTHER RESPECTS.

5. RESPONDING TO LUERS' DEMARCHE, PAWLISZEWSKI EMPHASIZED THAT IN WARSAW THEY ARE DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO RESOLVE THE DIVIDED FAMILIES PROBLEM. HE POINTED TO A TREND OF INCREASING EMIGRATION AND SAID THAT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF CASES WHICH ARE RESOLVED WITHOUT COMING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE DEPARTMENT, FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN A CONGRESSMAN RAISES A CASE DIRECTLY WITH THE POLES. FINALLY, HE SAID THERE WAS NO BASIS FOR OUR ASSUMPTION OF A CHANGE IN THE POLISH POSITION ON THESE MATTERS.

6. PAWLISZEWSKI THEN RECOUNTED BRIEFLY THE STATUS OF THE THREE INDIVIDUAL CASES RAISED BY THE SECRETARY IN WARSAW--KOTLARZ, BIEGUNSKI, AND STROJEK. HIS REMARKS FOLLOWED THE FAMILIAR LINE, EXCEPT THAT, IN THE CASE OF

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STROJEK, PAWLISZEWSKI REPEATED A NOTION HE HAD EXPRESSED A FEW MONTHS EARLIER TO EE DIRECTOR ANDREWS: HE SAID HE COULD NOT SAY FOR HOW LONG THE SECURITY STRICTURES AGAINST STROJEK'S DEPARTURE WOULD APPLY, THUS REAFFIRMING THE POSSIBILITY THAT SOME SORT OF TIME LIMIT IS INVOLVED.

7. PAWLISZEWSKI THEN MENTIONED A PROBLEM THE POLES ARE HAVING HERE. HE SAID U.S. COURTS OFTEN GRANT DIVORCES TO POLES RESIDING HERE WHO HAVE LEFT FAMILIES IN POLAND. THIS CAUSES DIFFICULTIES TO THE FAMILIES IN POLAND, WHICH HAVE NO ASSURANCE OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT, AND THE PROBLEM IS GROWING, ACCORDING TO POLISH CONSULAR OFFICIALS. PAWLISZEWSKI SUGGESTED THAT BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO RESOLVE IT.
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8. REITERATING THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN POLISH VISA PROCEDURES OR THAT THERE ARE NO SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS AGAINST FORMER POLISH CITIZENS, PAWLISZEWSKI PROMISED TO LOOK AGAIN INTO THE CASES PRESENTED BY LUERS TO SEE WHAT CAN BE DONE.

9. THANKING PAWLISZEWSKI FOR AGREEING TO REVIEW THESE CASES, LUERS OBSERVED THAT HE WOULD BE PLEASED TO SEE THIS PROBLEM REMOVED FROM OUR BILATERAL AGENDA, AND HE MADE CLEAR THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS UNTIL IT IS. LUERS CONCLUDED THAT AMBASSADOR SPASOWSKI WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY HEAR ABOUT THIS PROBLEM WHEN HE TALKS WITH OTHER US OFFICIALS.

10. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE EMBASSY'S REINFORCING LUERS' DEMARCHE AT AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

11. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENTS ON PAWLISZEWSKI'S ASSERTION ABOUT AN INCREASING TREND IN EMIGRATION AND HIS STATEMENT SUGGESTING A TIME LIMIT TO THE SECURITY STRICTURES AGAINST STROJEK'S DEPARTURE. VANCE

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